GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:686
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009
POLLUTION DUE TO SHIP BREAKING ACTIVITIES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ship-breaking activities at Alang in Gujarat have led to severe environmental degradation and pollution problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)to (c) The Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) has opened a new Regional Office at Bhavnagar in December, 2003 to check the pollution in and around Alang, including Bhavnagar District.The Regional Office is regularly monitoring Alang area for checking pollution in respect of sea water, ambient air quality and noise level. Further, Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) has developed a scientifically designed Treatment, Storage & Disposal Facility (TSDF) at Alang for final disposal of hazardous waste generated from ship breaking activity which is in operation at present.Earlier, ship breakers were disposing of their hazardous wastes at TSDF located in Ahmedabad.The Ministry of Environment and Forests had constituted a committee of technical experts vide their order dated 24.3.2006, with members having technical expertise in the subject of ship breaking and management of hazardous wastes relating to ship breaking activities. The Committee submitted its report with several recommendations for protection of environment and workers' safety.

The GPCB is implementing the recommendations of the committee of technical experts and monitoring the ship breaking activity at Alang.Monitoring of coastal water at Alang is periodically carried out by GPCB through National Institute of Oceanography (NIO).